

Application No. 10/662,150
Amendment Dated July 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated Jan. 3, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Fig. 1 generally illustrates a partial view of an interior of a vehicle 10. More specifically, the figure illustrates in partial view the interior of an automobile 10 such as a minivan, sport utility vehicle, truck or other vehicle utilizing one embodiment of the inventive console assembly 12. As is often the case, the console assembly 12 is designed to be disposed on a substrate 14 such as the floor ~~[[14]]~~ of the vehicle, typically adjacent one of the several seats 16, to provide storage for a variety of items at a central location that is easily accessible within the vehicle 10. However, such a console may be located at another location in the vehicle such as suspended from the ceiling or roof of the vehicle with minor modification to the orientation of some of the structure. In the particular instance illustrated, the storage console 12 includes a base tray assembly 18 resting on the floor 14 of the vehicle and containing a number of storage modules 20 for retaining articles. Certain of these modules 20 are intended to be located on the base tray 18, while others are supported above the base tray 18. The upper modules 20 are supported by at least a first and a second upright support member 22 extending from the base tray assembly 18. Each upright support member 22 is spaced from the other and attached to the base tray assembly 18 to provide the framework to support the additional storage modules above the base or bottom tray assembly 18. Because the needs of users are different, the instant invention is designed to take that need into account. The storage console 12 is provided with a number of storage modules of different shape, form, and size to be detachably mounted to the framework as well as each other to provide the desired storage solution.

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Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Each of the Terminals 26 may include a molded housing 30 of predetermined form and having at least one recess (not shown) of a shape adapted to receive the upper ends of the upright supports 22. The recess or socket for the upper end of the support 22 may be of a dimension to easily receive the support 22 requiring a fastener to keep the two components engaged, or of a closer tolerance so that a press-fit is adequate to fix to the upright 22. As more specifically shown in Figs. 2-5, one embodiment of Terminals 26 include one or more upper recess 32 for retaining drinks as well as an interior storage compartment (not shown) 35 formed by that portion of the housing 30 depending below and offset from that portion containing the drink recesses 32. A door 34 is illustrated to open and close the access opening to the interior storage compartment 35. The applications for such a compartment 35 are plentiful and could include an ash tray with enclosed cigarette lighter, and storage for eye glasses, sunglasses, garage door opener remotes, coin, gloves, tissues and the like. The possible uses for such spaces are endless and cannot be fully anticipated at the time of this writing. The reader should also note in the embodiment shown in these figures the anticipated location for one of the sockets briefly mentioned above. As best illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5, one such socket 24 may be provided at the lower edge 36 of Terminal module 26 making it generally accessible from the end of the console 12.

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Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] Alternate Medial modules to tray 38 may have a variety of configurations. For example it is contemplated that tray 38 may be replaced by a bin of substantial depth to serve as a file container or deep storage bin. One example of such an embodiment is illustrated in Fig. [[6]] 7. In this particular embodiment, the bottom tray 18, upright supports 22 and Terminals 26 may be substantially identical to the previously described embodiment. A plurality of wall members or panels 46 may be designed such that each may be detachably coupled to two support members 22 and perhaps bottom tray 18 and beam 40. Additionally, a similar panel 48 of same or different dimension may be positioned within the cavity defined by the wall members to serve as a divider or compartment interior wall or boundary. It is contemplated such wall panels 46 and 48 may have an edge received within a channel (not shown) defined in one edge of an extrusion 50 with the opposite edge of the extrusion 50 received within the proper channel 28 of a respective support 22. See Fig. 6. Without the extrusion or coupler 50, the panel 46 or 48 may be received within a close-tolerance channel defined in an interior facing wall of the Terminals 26 as well as a similar channel defined in the bottom tray 18. The walls of the Terminals 26 facing the Medial module area may be designed to provide file hanger channels or rims such as designated by numeral 52. Like modifications may include pockets bins 54 formed on the exterior surface of wall panels 46 to retain and store substantially flat items such as maps, vehicle registration materials and the like. Another modification or custom feature of the embodiment shown in Fig. [[6]] 7 is the use of a lid or door 56 hinged along one side so as to close the upper end of the Medial bin. For example, it is also anticipated that tray 38 described above could be easily modified

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to be hinged and serve as a closure over the space defined by wall panels 46. ~~In yet another alternative~~ Another embodiment ~~[[would]]~~ may be to hinge the tray 38 so it serves to close the bin as just mentioned and to hinge the door 56 to the upper surface of the tray 28 for closing the tray 38. As just illustrated, the variations to this invention can be substantial.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] As briefly mentioned above, the storage console 12 of this invention is intended to be located on the floor of the vehicle. To prevent the console from sliding or shifting while the vehicle is moving, a anchoring mechanism 13 attached to the base or bottom tray assembly 18 fixes the position or location of the storage console 12 relative to the vehicle 10. For example, one such anchoring mechanism 13 may include one of a hook or loop-type fastener that engages the fibers of the vehicle floor treatment. Another anchoring mechanism option may include actual fasteners extending through the bottom tray into the vehicle substrate.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] The invention described above may come preassembled in accordance with a special order from the customer. However, another option is that the basic components and accessories will be sold as a kit. The components for the kit and its accessories may comprise ~~[[a]]~~ the base tray assembly 18 for providing a stand-alone framework 22 for retaining containers 20 of predetermined dimension and ~~a base for supporting to provide~~ additional supporting structure. ~~[[A]] The superstructure assembly[[, the]]~~ referred to above as ~~[[a]]~~ the framework and upright support assembly 22, may have a variety of configurations adapted to be detachably coupled to ~~[[said]]~~ the base tray assembly 18. The

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kit ~~[[would]]~~ may include a plurality of basic storage modules 20 such as at least one Terminal 26 and one Medial 26, all of which are adapted to be mounted to one of the framework 22 and another module 20. The kit may also include at least one ~~connectivity~~ cord for operably connecting ~~[[with]]~~ to the vehicle and provide power to ~~[[a]]~~ one or more power sockets. One of ~~[[The]]~~ the sockets ~~[[is]]~~ may ~~adapted to~~ be received within one of the storage modules 20 or the base tray assembly 18. An anchoring member such as described above is also provided for fixing the base tray assembly at a predetermined position within the vehicle.